Ministry of Tourism has also identified "Churches of Goa" as one of the 22 Mega Projects identified in the country for development under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destination/circuits.

Tourist destination in Jharkhand and Orissa

435. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has identified top 20 tourist destinations in the country with an eye for wooing the potential foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter alia* indicating those located in the Jharkhand and Orissa; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to develop a holistic and integrated approach to achieve convergence and synergy with other Government programmes, so that the impact of investment on these destinations is maximized?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism has so far identified 22 mega destinations and circuits in the country on the basis of tourism related data on domestic and foreign tourist visits, future potential and in consultation with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Puri-Bhubaneshwar-Konark-Chilka is one of these circuits for which an amount of Rs.3022.80 lakh has been sanctioned in the current financial year.

Ministry of Tourism is taking up development of nationally and internationally important destinations/circuits through mega projects in a phased manner. So far 15 projects for development of mega destinations/circuits have been sanctioned. Ministry of Tourism also co-ordinates with Ministries of Railways, Civil Aviation, Road Transport and Highways and Urban Development etc. for convergence of projects to ensure holistic and integrated development of tourist destinations and circuits.

Promotion of tourism at Konkan coastal region

†436. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Central Government for promoting tourism along the Konkan, coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has accorded approval to the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized in consultation with the State Governments every year under various schemes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.